



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Galveston Mardi Gras Celebration Kicks Off Friday

Texas' Largest Mardi Gras Celebration to Feature Two Weekends of Parades, Concerts

GALVESTON ISLAND, TEXAS (February 14, 2017) – Texas' largest Mardi Gras celebration will kick off this weekend in Galveston, marking the start of carnival season with headliner concerts, elaborate parades and plenty of bead throwing.

Festivities will begin at 5:30 p.m. Friday with the George P. Mitchell Mardi Gras Award Ceremony followed by a 7 p.m. corresponding parade. At 8 p.m., more than 2,000 umbrella dancers will twist through the streets of downtown Galveston at the seventh annual Funky Uptown Umbrella Brigade. At 10 p.m. the new Galveston PRIDE Parade will kickoff and a number of concerts will keep the party going through the night.

On Saturday, several parades will take place along Galveston's Seawall and through the downtown Mardi Gras Entertainment District, including two of *Mardi Gras! Galveston's* largest events. Revelers won't want to miss the Mystic Krewe of Aquarius Kick-Off Parade at 12 p.m. or the Krewe of Gambrinus "Light Up the Night" Parade at 6 p.m.

Saturday's live entertainment lineup will be headlined by alternative rock band Sugar Ray, which will perform at 6 p.m. on the Budweiser Stage located at 23rd and Strand inside the Mardi Gras Entertainment District. For lovers of electronic dance music, the Fueled by Monster Electric Stage located at 21st and Mechanic streets will feature continuous, beat-thumping DJ concerts throughout the festival.

This Sunday is "Fiesta Gras" at *Mardi Gras! Galveston* – a new celebration highlighting Tejano music and culture with parades at 1 and 4 p.m. and a headline performance by four-time Grammy Award-winning group La Mafia at 2:30 p.m.

Next Friday, Mardi Gras will continue with a second weekend of festivities and run through Fat Tuesday, Feb. 28. For more information on *Mardi Gras! Galveston*, visit www.mardigrasgalveston.com.

First Weekend Major Events

FRIDAY

- 5:30 p.m. Mardi Gras Concert: The Lineup (Budweiser Stage)
- 5:30 p.m. George P. Mitchell Mardi Gras Award Ceremony (Entertainment District)
- 7:00 p.m. George P. Mitchell Mardi Gras Award Parade (Entertainment District)
- 7:30 p.m. Mardi Gras Concert: Brandon Rhyder (Budweiser Stage)
- 8:00 p.m. Funky Uptown Umbrella Brigade (Entertainment District)
- 10:00 p.m. Mardi Gras Concert: DJQwest (Electric Stage)
- 10:00 p.m. Galveston PRIDE Parade (Entertainment District)
- 10:15 p.m. Mardi Gras Concert: Honeybrowne (Budweiser Stage)
- 11:30 p.m. Mardi Gras Concert: DJ Villa (Electric Stage)

SATURDAY

9:00 a.m.	Official Mardi Gras! Galveston 5K & 10K Run (Entertainment District)
12:00 p.m.	Mardi Gras Concert: Mambo Jazz Kings (Budweiser Stage)
12:00 p.m.	Mystic Krewe of Aquarius Mardi Gras Parade (Seawall & Entertainment District)
1:00 p.m.	Zaniest Golf Cart Parade (Entertainment District)
3:00 p.m.	Krewe d'iHeart Media Parade (Entertainment District)
4:15 p.m.	Mardi Gras Concert: Zaemon (Budweiser Stage)
5:30 p.m.	Mardi Gras Concert: DJ Pistol B (Electric Stage)
6:00 p.m.	Krewe of Gambinus Parade (Seawall & Entertainment District)
6:00 p.m.	Mardi Gras Concert: Sugar Ray (Budweiser Stage)
9:00 p.m.	Mardi Gras Concert: DJ Bizonee (Electric Stage)
10:00 p.m.	Mardi Gras Concert: Sprung (Budweiser Stage)
10:00 p.m.	Mardi Gras Concert: Tropkillaz (Electric Stage)
11:40 p.m.	Mardi Gras Concert: Bright Lights (Electric Stage)

SUNDAY

1:00 p.m.	LULAC 151 Tejano Gras Parade (Entertainment District)
2:30 p.m.	Mardi Gras Concert: La Mafia (Budweiser Stage)
4:00 p.m.	Mega 101 Parade (Entertainment District)

About Mardi Gras! Galveston

Mardi Gras, the traditional festival of feasting and merrymaking that precedes the season of Lent, was first publicly observed on Galveston Island in 1867. Following a sabbatical imposed in 1941 by war and challenging times, Mardi Gras! Galveston was revived in 1985 by Galveston-born preservationist and developer George P. Mitchell. The largest celebration of its kind in Texas and the third largest in the nation, Mardi Gras! Galveston brings the island's streets to life with parade viewers shouting for beads, lively tunes played by the colorful marching bands, and the infectious merriment that dominates the island for two full weeks. For more information on *Mardi Gras! Galveston* visit www.mardigrasgalveston.com.

Media Resources

Media professionals seeking more information about *Mardi Gras! Galveston* may contact Leah Cast, director of communications for the Galveston Island Convention & Visitors Bureau, at 409-797-5152 or lcast@galvestoncvb.com.

- To request media passes, submit via our [Online Media Request Form](#)
- To download high resolution photos for media use, visit our [Online Photo Gallery](#)
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